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WASHINGTON.

MAIL CONTRACTS NOT TO BE SUB-LET. A VOTE IN THE HOUSE TO THAT EFFECT-ANOTHER DEFICIENCY BILL-GENERAL CONGRESSIONAL

The House passed a bill in regard to mail contracts, yesterday, one clause of wheh forbids sub-letting. The House also passed a large deficiency bill. An effort was made to get the title of it changed so as not to indicate its character, but the motion was defeated. Senator Howe gave notice of an intention to speak on the Louisiana question. Mr. Wood's Tariff Bill will be reported in a few days. A plan is on foot to have the Treasury secure information as to the standing of all banks, for the benefit of depositors who wish to know where their money will be safe.

THE PROTECTION OF DEPOSITORS. THE TREASURY AS AN AGENCY TO REPORT ON THE STANDING OF BANKS-INQUIRIES AS TO THE AMOUNT OF COIN IN CIRCULATION.

IBY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE. WASHINGTON, March 20 .- A Sub-Committee of the House Committee on Banking and Currency, consisting of General Ewing, of Ohio, Mr. Chittenden, of New-York, and Mr. Hartzell, of Illinois, called at the Treasury Department to-day, and had an interview with Controller Knox, Treasurer Gilfallan, and Secretary Sherman, for the purpose of ascertaining the amount of standard or subsidiary coin now in the different banking institutions throughout the country (National banks, saving banks, etc.), so as to ascertain the amount of such coinage actually in the country. Controller Knox said that the knowledge at his disposal, outside of the National banks, was not sufficiently definite to enable him to supply the

Messrs. Ewing and Chittenden left for New-York this evening to be present at the weighing of the coin in the Sub-Treasury in that city. The committee designs taking steps to ascertain the data which it sought at the Treasury to-day by other means, such as sending out letters of inquiry, calling for bank statements, etc., as it is of the opinion that when proper offsets and deductions for the sinking fund, interest on the public debt, etc., are made, it will be found that the Secretary of the Treasury has not on hand and available for resumption purposes even nearly the amount of \$45,000,-

Other questions asked by the committee appeared to point to the adoption of new legislation in relation to banking institutions and the thorough protection of depositors.

It is well known that there are numerous commercial agencies throughout the country which have branch houses in almost every city. These agencies ascertain for their correspondents, for a small fee, the solvency of any institution with which the correspondent does business, or concerning which he seeks information. Many of them, moreover, publish printed lists in which the solvency of business firms is set forth at stated intervals.

The questions put by the gentlemen of the committee tended to show that it was their intention to prepare some bill which should provide that all banks, savings banks, or other institutions issning notes, or receiving deposits of money in any shape whatever, whether for safe custody merely, or as deposits drawing interest, authorized by State or Territorial laws or charters, or by the General Government, shall be compelled by law at brief and regular intervals to furnish the United States Treasmry with minute sworn and attested statements of my with minute sworn and attested statements of the exact cendition of their affairs; furthermore, that these reports shall be so collated, entered and arranged as to date that any person throughout the Union, who desires to deposit in any bank or banking institution, may by letter or by personal inquiry at the Treasury, obtain a categorical answer which shall be as far as possible an excathedra opinion as to the solvency of the institution in question. Any depositor who may be in doubt as to the safety of moneys which he may have in any banking institution can also by such inquiry receive timely warning of its true condition.

This proceeding points to the initiation of legislation for the protection of individual depositors in banks and savings and trust institutions, in advance even of existing laws in the same direction.

MR. WOOD'S TARIFF BILL. A PROTEST FROM SUGAR MERCHANTS-THE BILL

NEARLY READY-AN OLD SENATOR'S HINT. IBY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, March 20.-A committee of Baltimore sugar importers has been in Washington today, to protest against the provisions of the Wood Tariff bill fixing the duties on sugar. The importers say that those portions of the bill have been constructed in the interest of New-York sugar refiners. Mr. Fernando Wood expects to report the tariff

bill to the House by Friday. The opponents of the bill talk of attacking it at once, preventing its reference back to the committee, and, if possible,

striking out the enacting clause.

A member of the Senate Committee on Finance, who has had long experience, said to-day that if he were a business man, he should act upon the belief that the tariff bill would not become a law this session; that the Resumption Act would not be repealed, and that no silver bullion certificate bill would not be re-A POLITICAL DEBATE IN VIEW.

MR. HOWE GIVES NOTICE OF A SPEECH ON THE SOUTHERN POLICY.

IBY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, March 20 .- And now preparations are making in the Senate for a political debate on the Southern policy of the Administration. Senator Howe gave notice to-day of his purpose to speak on the Louisiana question, taking for his text the defaleation of Judge Whittaker, when he was Assistant-Treasurer of the United States. A debate of this kind, if once begun, may last for weeks.

AT THE SOLDIERS' HOMES.

THE DOINGS OF THE PAST YEAR AS REPORTED TO THE ANNUAL MEETING OF MANAGERS-AN ELEC-TION OF OFFICERS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]
WASHINGTON, March 20.—The managers of the National Soldiers' Homes, who have been in session, in this city, for two or three days, completed their deliberations to-day. There were present: Chief Justice Waite, General B. F. Butler, General Bond, General Martindale, Governor Smythe, of New-Hampshire, General Negley, L. B. Gunckel and Dr.

The old board of officers was reëlected, and is as follows: President-General B. F. Butler; Vice-Presidents-General Martindale and Governor Smythe : Secretary-L. B. Gunckel.

The reports of the several branch homes were examined and acted upon, and requisitions were made for necessary clothing and supplies for the next quarter. The inmates of the mes now number 7,000, which is the largest number yet provided for. The secretary's report showed that over 8,000 disabled soldiers had been provided for during the year, as follows: At the Central Branch, Dayton, Ohio, 4,623; at the Northwestern Branch, Milwaukee, Wis., 1,307; at the Eastern Branch, Augusta, Mc., 1,325, and at the Southern Branch, Hampton, Va., 958, being in the aggregate 1,000 more than during the year 1876. The total average cost of the ration for each man during the year was only a fraction over twenty-one cents per day, being one cent less than last year. The annual expenses of the homes now amount to about \$1,000, 000. branch, Augusta, Me., 1,325, and at the Southern

Provision was made to-day for additional build-

A BLOW AT A BAD PRACTICE. THE HOUSE AGREES TO A PROPOSITION TO FORBID THE SUB-LETTING OF MAIL CONTRACTS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] WASHINGTON, March 20 .- The House passed the bill to regulate advertisements for mail lettings, to-day, with an amendment proposed by Mr. Hale, which forbids the sub-letting of any mail contract. This will put a stop to one of the most objection

able practices under the Post Office Department. It has been customary for a number of would-be contractors to band together and bid for contracts, and then to sub-let or transfer them, often making it necessary for the department to deal with persons to whom, for good reasons, it would never

persons to whom, for good reasons, it would never have given contracts.

The House Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads discovered to-day that John W. Adams has a mail contract, for which the Government pays him \$40,000, but which he sub-lets for \$13,000. It is just such proceedings as this which Mr. Hale's amendment is intended to stop. During the debate on this bill, it was asserted that one ring of mail contractors in Washington had control of about six hundred routes, none of which are actually managed by the holders of the contracts.

THE CROP OF DEFICIENCY BILLS. ANOTHER ONE PASSED-AN ATTEMPT MADE TO WHITEWASH IT BY A CHANGE OF TITLE.

IBY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE. WASHINGTON, March 20.-When the Democrats of the last Congress were cutting down the appropriations without rhyme or reason, the Republicans repeatedly warned them that their boasted economy would disappear when the deficiency bills, which would be necessary, came to be passed. Two or three bills of this character have already been reported in the House; and the Democrats, in order to avoid the odium, attempted to-day, on motion of Mr. Whitthorne, to amend the title of the last one so as to make it read "An act to provide for the miscellaneous expenses of the Government," instead of "An act appropriating money for deliciences, etc." A division of the House was had on this question and the amendment was defeated by a vote of 106 in the affirmative, to 116 in the negative. The

THE FREEDMEN'S BANK. REPORT TO THE HOUSE UPON THE AFFAIRS OF THE CONCERN.

IBT TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE. WASHINGTON, March 20.-The Commissioners of the Freedmen's Bank have reported to the House of Representatives, in answer to a resolution, that their receipts from January 1, 1875, to January 1, 1878, were \$1,115,699 73, and their disbursements, including a 20 per cent dividend on deposits, \$738,-The total liabilities of the company were \$2,968,814 36. A second dividend of 10 per cent was declared February 1, 1878. The Commissioners repeat their recommendation that the Government purchase the banking houses of the company in this city and at Jacksonville, Fla., the former for \$275,000 and the latter for \$40,000. The Commissioners report that the balances still due to the comsioners report that the balances still due to the company, exclusive of the overdrafts, foot up \$996,073 06, of which a large proportion are ultraly worthless. The overdrafts, amounting to \$55,507 67, are almost totally so. The present assessed value of the real estate held by the company at the time of its failure and still undisposed of, is \$247,824. That which has been bought in at trustee's sale and on hand cost \$267.631.

CURRENT TOPICS AT THE CAPITAL A HARDSHIP ON SMALL TOBACCO DEALERS.

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, March 20, 1878. Mr. O'Neill, of Pennsylvania, and a committee of jobbers and dealers in tobacco in Philadelphia, called the attention of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, to-day, to the provisions of a circular requiring dealers in tobacco to sell from original packages bearing the internal revenue stamps. They said that this circular was very oppressive to all small dealers in tobacco, which is put up in such large packages that most of them cannot afford to buy a whole package; and if they could, the tobacco would become dry and stale before it could be disposed of. They said that if the rule laid down in the circular is enforced, it will drive out of the trade thousands of small dealers.

IMPROVING THE LIFE-SAVING SERVICE. A majority of the House Committee on Comnerce is opposed to the transfer of the Life-Saving Service from the Treasury to the Navy Department, and will report to the House against this plan. It is also decided that there ought to be fifteen complete Life-Saving Stations on the North Carolina and Virginia coasts, three of which should be placed between the southern-most existing station and Hatterns Inlet. The Huron and Metropolis disasters are likely to make Congress more liberal than heretofore to the Life-Saving Service. A NINETY YEARS' INDEX.

A good idea was suggested by Mr. A. H. Stephens, in a resolution presented in the House to-day, namely, to have prepared a complete index of the journals of the House from the foundation of the Govern-

A ROMANTIC CONSUL REMOVED. The President has removed Mr. Beauchamp, hart" to a young lady travelling in Europe, pointed Mr. George E. Bullock in his place.

WASHINGTON NOTES. WASHINGTON, Wednesday, March 20, 1878. Among the callets on the President to-day was Major-

General Hancock. The subscriptions to the 4 per cent bonds to-day

mounted to \$106,000. The President has signed the commission of Alanson W. Beard to be Collector of Customs for Boston and Charlestown, Mass.

General George Williamson, Minister to the Central American States, arrived in Washington last night, and called upon Secretary Evarts.

Senator Conover will make a speech on the collapse of

the Caban revolution when he calls up the resolution on the subject which he introduced in the Schate to-day. The report of yesterday's debate in the Senate on the No changes were made in the Tariff Bill by the Com-

mittee on Ways and Means to-day. The entire session of the committee was devoted to discussing this meas-The Committee on Coluage, Weights and Measures has

agreed to report favorably Representative Maish's bill for panishing the mutilation and clipping of cein, and providing that clipped coin shall not be a legal-tender for the payment of debts.

The Treasury Department having submitted to the Attorney-General the question whether coupons of United States bonds, when detached and destroyed, can be paid under the terms of Section 3,702 of the Re-vised Statutes, be has decided that they cannot. The Secretary of the Treasury has received a large

number of applications from commanders, captains and other officers of lower rank in the Navy, to be detailed to command the James Gordon Bennett Polar Expedi-tion, and for duty connected with that expedition. The nomination of Mr. Easiby to be Naval Constructor The homination of Mr. Easiby to be Naval Constructor was voted upon in the Senate Committee on Naval Af-fairs, and the decision was an adverse one. Subse-quently his friends in the committee secured a recon-sideration, and a further vote was postponed for a

The Senate Committee on Finance heard Senators Beck and Matthews to-day in advocacy of a favorable report upon the House joint resolution extending the time for the payment of the tax on distilled spirits, etc. The committee expects to take action on the subject next Friday.

The House Committee on Expenditures in the Post Office Department, of which Mr. Williams, of Alabama,

Office Department, of which Mr. Williams, of Alabama, is chairman, has subpensed the Postmaster at Little Rock to supper before it to testify regarding the charge against him, as having certified to postal bidders in blanks in violation of the law.

There is still some doubt as to the acceptance of the positions of Government Railroad Directors of the Union Positio Estimated by two as the second. Union Pacific Railroad by two or three of the gentlemen who have been tendered such appointments. For this reason Secretary Schurz still declines to make public the fist that had been agreed upon.

The bill extending the time for the payment of tax on

whiskey in bond, which was passed by the House the whiskey in out, we do not with considerable opposition in the Senate. Senators Beck and Matthews made arguments in its favor to-day before the Committee on Finance, and a vote upon it was postponed until Friday.

A CUSTOM HOUSE INVESTIGATION.

CHICAGO, March 20 .- The Special Commission appointed by Secretary Sherman, consisting of General-Appraiser Meredith, of Baltimore; Special Agents N. W. Bingham, of Boston, and B. H. Hinds, of Chicago, met at the Custom House in this city to-day. They will inquire into the allegations of irregularities at New-York, made by importing merchants here, and into the workings of the direct Importation Act so far as the Cities of Chicago, St. Louis and Cincinnatiare concerned. The Collector of this port invited Mr. L. Z. Leiter, of the firm of Field, Leiter & Co., to act with the commission on behalf of the merchants, and appointed John Hitt as an expert. This, it is undecetood, was upon the suggestion of the Secretary of the Treasury. N. W. Bingham, of Boston, and B. H. Hinds, of Chicago,

THE PHILADELPHIA METHODIST EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE.

READING, Penn., March 20 .- The Philadelphia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church re-assembled at 9 a.m. The Rev. E. D. Kenny, on the re-port of the court of inquiry, was found guilty, and ex-pelled from the ministry and conference. The appointNEW-YORK, THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1878.

ments were announced, and the ninety-first session adjourned sine die.

GENERAL FOREIGN NEWS. THE ROSEBERY-ROTHSCHILD MARRIAGE.

LONDON, Wednesday, March 20, 1878.

The marriage of the Earl of Rosebery to Miss Hannah de Rothschild, only daughter of Baron Meyer de Rothschild, was celebrated to-day. They were

married civilly at the Registrar's Office for the Hanover Square District, at fifteen minutes to 10 this morning. The religious ceremony took place at Christ Church,

The bride, Miss Hannah de Rothschild, the only child of the late Baron Meyer de Rothschild, inher-ited his splendid country seat known as Mentmore, a handsome residence in London, and a fortune estimated at from \$15,000,000 to \$20,000,000. In appearance, she is refined and attractive. She has a fine presence she is refined and attractive. She has a fine presence and charm of manner that have long rendered her noticeable. The Earl of Rosebery is a member of the family of Primrose, an ancient Scottish house. He is in his thirty-first year, and succeeded to the Rosebery titles and estates on the death of his father in 1851. He began his political career in the House of Lords, and supports the Liberai party. He is distinguished as a serious student of social science, and as an authority in the Jockey Club. He visited this country twice, making many friends, especially in this city. Lord Rosebery's principal residence is at Dalmeuy Park, near Edinburgh. Mentmore, which he acquires with his wife, is one of the most spiendful seats in England. It contains a number of priceless and beautiful works of art, collected by the late Earon.

THE NEXT PAPAL CONSISTORY.

ROME, Wednesday, March 20, 1878. The Consistory on the 25th inst. will be held with the formalities observed at consistories held before 1870. The English Cardinals have been invited to attend at the proclamation of the Catholic Hierarchy of Scotland.

THE PEDESTRIAN CONTEST. LONDON, Wednesday, March 20, 1878.

International walking match, which began in Agricultural Hall, Islington, Monday morning and is to last six days, causes much interest. At 11 o'clock this morning, O'Leary, the American, had com-pleted 231 miles, H. Brown, of Fulham, 224, and Harry Yanghn, of Chester, 222. The match appears to rest between these three.

At midnight O'Leary had walked 284 miles, Vaughn 271, and Brown 268. O'Leary continues to walk in fine style, and is much cheered.

RESULTS OF THE TORONTO RIOT.

Toronto, March 20.-Seven men are reported missing from their homes since Monday night's riot, four of whom are known to have been severely wounded. Rumors are current that several of them have died and that others are dying. William Clegg, who was shot in the shoul der while on his way home, lies in a dangerous condition. The injured policemen are improving.

RECONSTRUCTION IN CUBA.

HAVANA, March 20 .- The surrender of the nsurgent forces of Los Villas was finished yesterday, the territory being now completely quiet. Those who sur-rendered include Major-General Roloff, Brigadier-General rendered include Major-General Roboff, Brigadier-General Maestre, three Colonels, eight Lieutenant-Colonels, fifty-five officers, and 440 soldiers, with about 100 women and children. Modesta Diaz and the insurgent bands of Bayanco, Mazanillo and Giguani had already surren-dered on the 8th instaut, so that as far as Holquin all is

OTTAWA, March 20 .- In the Senate, Mr. Burean asked whether, in view of the remonetization of silver in the United States, measures will be taken by the Government during the present session to prevent a re-currence of the abuses and losses which were formerly occasioned by the circulation, as a medium of exchange of salver coins whose conventional and factitious values were not in accordance with their real or market value. Mr. Pelletier said the matter had been before the Government, and, if necessary, they would bring the measure into the House. He was not prepared to say that the statutes did not provide sufficient means to meet the

Mr. Preston, the Haytian Minister, has re-

selved a telegram from Port an Prince, saying that the revolt headed by Tania and Chevatier has been quelled. The President has returned to Port au Prince. Chevatier has taken refuge at the American Consulate.

FOREIGN NOTES.

LONDON, March 20 .- The Financier says: "The embarrassments of three or four grain firms in the provinces were discussed yesterday. The actual suspension of one house was currently reported."

London, March 20 .- The Circassia, a new steamer for the Anchor Line, was launched at Barrow yesterday. She is of 4,000 tons burden, and is intended to sail between Gibsgow and New-York. MONTREAL, March 20 .- McMillen & Co., lum-

ber merchants, have failed. Liabilities, \$100,000; assets unknown. John Phelan, a Lachtne Canal con-tractor, has absconded, leaving a large number of cred-itors, and 250 workmen in arrears.

FULL RETURNS FROM NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

GOVERNOR PRESCOTT'S PLURALITY 1,514, AND HIS MAJORITY 941. CONCORD, N. H., March 20.-Election re

turns from all the towns in the State have been received. Governor Prescott (Republican) has a plurality of 1,514 votes, and a majority of 941. The vote, this year, for Governor, is compared below with the vote

B. F. Prescott (R.) 39,377 F. A. McKean (D.) 37,863 A. S. Kendail (B.) 251	B, F, Prescott (R.)., 40,755 Daniel Marcy (D.)., 36,721 A, S, Kendall (P.). (207
Samuel Flint (G.) 223 Scattering 99	Scattering 77,873
Total vote	Rep. plurality 4,034 Rep. majority 3,637

These figures show that the total vote for Govern this year is within 60 votes of the total vote last year. The Republican loss amounts to 1,378 votes, and the Democratic gain to 1,142 votes. The third party and scatering vote is increased by 176 votes.

On the vote for Railroad Commissioner, David E. Willard (Rep.) has a majority of 1,612. Last year the Republican majority for the same office was 3,287. In the Lower House of the State Lagislature the Re-publicans will have 205 members and the Democrats 165. Last year the Republicans had 224 members and the Democrats 155.

MASSACHUSETTS SAVINGS BANKS. LAWRENCE, Mass., March 20 .- Some excite-

ment was created among the mill operatives here to-day by rumors of the suspension of the Broadway Savings Bank, which has deposits of \$1,068,987, most of which belong to this class. The bank has rot suspended, but

Hon, Dimiel Needham, United States Examiner, is making a thorough examination.

Bosros, Mass., March 20.—The Traveller says: It is a well-ascertained fact that Governor Rice had promised more than one person, before the Savinga Bank Bill was passed, that he would sign it; and this hesitation on his part is not very well received by either party. As the Governor is nware that the bill will be carried over his veto, should he veto it, the most plausible theory is that he intenda to let it become a law without his signature, the five days expiring Saturday.

ARREST OF A WOMAN THIEF.

Boston, March 20 .- Detective Kierns, of New York, arrested, yesterday, at a house on Green-st., Minnie Walton, who is one of the most skilful female thieves in the country. She has served a term in Singthieves in the country. She has served a term in Sing-Sing Prison for rebbing a private house in New-York of \$7,000 worth of valuables, and last September she robbed the Palmer House, in Chicago, of \$12,000 in diamonds, jewelry, etc. Since then she has robbed the residence of Dudley S. Gregory, in New-York, of about \$3,500 worth of property, and the residence of Mr. Wright, on Fourth-ave., New-York, of about \$2,000 worth of diamonds and jeweiry. In both of these houses she served as a domestic, and in herroom on Green-st. a large quantity of property stolen from Messrs. Gregory and Wright was recovered. Kierns traced the woman to New-Haven and thence to Boston. She will probably return to New-York to-day.

FAILURE AT TORONTO. TORONTO, March 20,-John Rennie & Co.,

wholesale fancy goods dealers, have assigned, with liabilities of \$50,000. Their assets are claimed to be in excess of this amount.

A MAINE SAVINGS BANK SUSPENDED. CALAIS, Me., March 20 .- The trustees of the Calais Savings Bank made a voluntary suspension of payment to-day. It is claimed that the depositors will be paid in fulk

LONDON TOPICS.

ART, LITERATURE AND THE DRAMA. THE ILLNESS OF MR. RUSKIN-THE MERITS OF T LATE BASIL MONTAGU PICKERING AS A PUB-LISHER-CARLYLE ON INDEXING-THE GOSSIP

ABOUT DRURY LANE-NEVILLE MORITZ TO AP-

PEAR AT THE QUEEN'S THEATRE. OM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE. LONDON, March 6 .- Mr. Ruskin is so seriously ill that his friends are in daily and hourly dread of hearing that he is no more. Brain fever the doctors call it, and Dr. John Simon, the great surgeon of St. Thomas's Hospital, who went down from London to Brantwood to attend him, declared at first sight there was no hope. But the patient has rallied a little since then. Able to take no nourishment, he still makes that silent, brave struggle for life by which men of his delicate frame, but firm nerve, have been known before now to defeat the enemy or keep him long at bay. The battle goes on by Lake Conistou-that soft expanse of water which, to my mind, has hardly a rival in its peaceful loveliness nearer than North Italy. Mr. Ruskin is almost sixty years old. His mental labors have been ruthlessly pursued long after the commonest prodence would have imposed rest on him. It is but a year or two since he published a schedule of works he was meaning to writeseventy volumes or more. He has had, also, more than his share of anxieties and irritating responsibilities. Recent numbers of "Fors Clavigera" have shown him sadly overworked; the deplorable dispute with Miss Octavia Hill of itself indicated how dangerously the balance of his faculties was dis ordered. The most one can say is, that there is still a chance of recovery, and the least one can express is a fervent wish that some years of quiet life might

still be left to his sorely troubled spirit.

A word of regret is due to the late Mr. Basil Montagu Pickering, a bookseller and publisher whom lovers of good books have to thank for some services. He was the son of the man who made the name of Pickering famous in book publishing annals, and who did something to redeem his business from the altogether commercial character which so many publishers delight to impress upon it.

The father had, and so had the son, an idea that a good book deserves to be well printed. The modern publisher, as a rule, aims at cheapness in manufacture. He gives us cheap paper, and cheap ink, and hasty presswork, and thinsy binding. The younger Pickering entered upon few or no such extensive enterprises as those which gave fame (without fortune, unhappily) to sometimes exceedingly well. I have mentioned before now his first edition (two vols., 8vo., 1872) of the works of John Hookham Frere. The twenty-five copies of this first edition, on large paper, are perhaps the best specimens of recent English book-making. They deserve to be ranked with the best modern French work, which is for the most part far superior to the best English. His reprint of the first edition of Milton's Paradisc Lost was also a creditable piece of work; though the book is by no means, as he allowed its editor, Mr. R. H. Shepherd, to say, a facsimile of the original. Many an American book-buyer must have strayed into the little shop in Piccadilly; attracted partly by the name over the door, partly by the display of old bindings and the open titles of old and new books in the windows. Mr. Pickering had a good knowledge of early printed literature, in certain classes; and made a specialty of first editions of nineteenth century poets, as well as of the editions brought out by his father, many of which have long been scarce. He was Dr. Newman's publisher also. The miscellaneous writings of that great master of the English tongue has Mr. Pickering's name on the title page; so did his recent pamphlets. The nearest approach that can be made to a uniform collection of man must bear Pickering's edition as a basis. With this last possessor of it the name dies out of the pub-

lishing business; more's the pity.

The third volume of the new edition of George Eliot's writings contains, in addition to "Silas Marner" (which I take leave to think her most perfect work), two tales, entitled "The Lifted Veil' and "Brother Jacob." They may be familiar to 1859 and 1860, but the curious enthusiast will seek in vain for any indication of the place and form in which they appeared. If anybody thinks details of this kind too frivolous for so great a writer as George Eliot, let him turn to the collected writings of a writer certainly not less, great, one Thomas Carlyle. He will find the Library Edition equipped with a complete bibliography of all the books and essays Carlyle has published, date of original published. 1859 and 1860, but the curious enthusiast will seek ssays Carlyle has published, date of original publication, periodical in which each essay appeared, and so on, not to speak of indexes to each separate book. and a general index to the whole work,-the latter supplied at cost price to the purchaser, as if to mark the great master's sense of its being a duty to sup-ply such an index, and his firm opinion—which he has often loudly expressed—that no book is complete without one. The absence of an index is not, indeed, matter of complaint against a collection of novels. Somebody, I dare say, will feel called upon by-and-by to compile a George Eliot Dictionary on the pattern of the Dickens Dictionary. There may be too much even of a good thing-and good things may be put to foolish uses. The existence of an Index Society-very lately formed and hardly yet at work-proves clearly enough how pressing the need is of ready means of reference to vast numbers of books which the student really wants to use, and can use but imperfectly, or with immense pains, for want of indexes. It is at best a perverse and misplaced affection that could lead anybody to construct analyses and indexes to novels. Where will this generation end if it has to have somebody do even its novel-reading for it? The story I mentioned yesterday about Lady Bur-

dett-Coutts and Drury Lane Theatre is contradicted to-day. It has no foundation, says the good Baroness. She is not going to take Drury Lane and set up a Shakesperean stage, or make Mr. Irving manager. So much the worse for the stage. 1 criticised the pretentious form of the announcement but I am really sorry no such effort is to be made for the drama as might be made with a really cultivated and able man like Mr. Irving with a long purse to back him. There was a story also that Mrs. Crowe (Miss Bateman) was to have Drury Lane, but that died away some time ago. The only fact remaining out of all the gossip seems to be this: that Drary Lane is to be let, and that no tenant for it is yet forthcoming. Mr. Chatterton retired on Monday, with a benefit, to which most of the leading people in other theatres contributed. Mrs. Bateman's lease of the Lyceum will presently expire, and the report is that she also will abandon the cares of management. At her age she has certainly earned the right to resign active duties of that sort-arduous and responsible beyond most kinds of business-into younger hands. I hope the other part of the story is true also; that she retires with a competent fortune.

Respecting Herr Moritz I may add that a little party seems to be growing up in his favor, and the critics whose hard judgment on him I have quoted are not to have it all their own way. One lady insists that the performance, though rough and unequal, shows signs of genuine power; and of artistic knowledge also. He has it in him, she declares; and though not perhaps a very great actor yet, has plenty of promise, and may expect to succeed in a fair field. And it now appears that he is to have the field. He has made some arrangement with Mr. Labouchere, the owner of the Queen's Theatre, by which he is to appear not only at another matinée, but every evening of next week, and longer if he who heard him, and whose opinion is worth having,

draws. It will be seen by the end of the week PROSPECTS OF A CONGRESS. whether London cares to have Herr Moritz or not. The press critics, I don't doubt, will be happy to revise their verdict against him if he will give them

It is on Ash Wednesday that I find myself touch ing on matters theatrical, which the strictly sanctinonious High Churchman regards as forbidden for the day. And forbidden they are within the Lord Chamberlain's jurisdiction. No theatre in London may be open to-night-none, in fact, is open; all the London papers give theatrical programmes for tonorrow, instead of to-day. All the managers in London are fined one night's receipts; all the actors one night's salary, if their salary happen to be payable nightly. The defined and settled authority of the Lord Chamberlain over the stage, dates, as Mr. Lecky has recently reminded us, from Walpole's Licensing Act of 1737. This high functionary was by that act expressly authorized to prohibit any dramatic representation. When he egan, or whether he and not some other authority began, to close all the theatres on this particular day, I do not know. Remonstrances against so purely a whimsical use of his arbitrary power are often heard, but have remained thus far ineffectual.

A GHOSTLY WATCHMAN ON HIS ROUNDS. EAST SIDE RESIDENTS GREATLY EXCITED-A MYS-

TERIOUS LIGHT AND AN APPARITION-UNUSUAL WORK FOR THE POLICE.

The residents of East Thirty-eighth and he adjoining streets are greatly excited over what they was a night Watchman who patrolled Third-ave., be-tween Thirty-fifth and Fortieth-sts., and his duties consisted in keeping thieves from plundering the stores an appointed hour in the morning. He thus became very well-known. Two weeks ago he woke up a man Thirty-ninth-st. and First-ave., as was his usual custom. Soon afterward a heavy body was led to the belief that Sheppard had been drowned. There

leat to fall in the East River. Investigation led to the belief that Sheppard had been drowned. There was much discussion in the neighborhood at the time, some saying that he accidently fell into the water and others that he met with fool play. However, the body, helleved to be his, was taken to his son's residence and burried a few days afterwards.

For several nights people living on the East Side, near Thirty-annth-st., have noticed on the water a large light, about doubte the size of an ordinary street-lamp. This did not seem to be attached to anything. It had the appearance of daneing along the surface of the water, remaining in no place for any length of time. When pursued it would move away. The light fluelly faded from view, and then the spectators, so the stories ran, were startled by seeing Sheppard, or his ghost, walking along the wharf and gesticulating to those with whom he was acquainted. He was always attired in the same dress with a slouch hat worn by the waterman on his nigitly rounds. Officer Thomas Kilbride, of the Twenty-first Precinct, saw the ghost Tuesday night. The policeman had heard the stories but discredited them. While patrolling First-ave, about midnight he met the apparition at the Thirty-math Street Pier. Summoning up all the courage which his years of experience had given him, he advanced to meet the shape, but it passed by him. The officer rushed at it, but it vanished. Some persons say that the officer fainted; others assert that he ran away. Kilbride stoudy deches that he did either.

Captain Murphy believes that it is the form of the dead watchman haunting the place which he used to watch. Other persons think that the watchman was never

Captain Murphy believes that it is the form of the dead watchinan haunting the place which he used to watch. Other persons think that the watchman was never drowned, but that he visits this spot every night. Captain Murphy, with several officers, visited the places frequented by the ghost, last night, bent on capturing the apparition. The spirit doubtless heard of the plan, for their efforts were fruitless.

Colonel H. S. Olcott, president of the Theosophic Society, with Madame Biavatsky and another lady, accompanied the officers. The party arrived at the wharf about twenty minutes before nidnight, About 100 persons altogether were soon anxiously awaiting the appearance of the ghost. All agreed that it was the most suitable place a ghost could select for making himself visible. To amuse and instruct those present, Madam Blayatsky recounted her experience in seeing spirits and apparations. About 10 clock this morning, weary of waiting for Sheppara's ghost, the police officers left the wharf, Madam Blayatsky and her triends remaining behind.

THE CAMDEN MURDER.

WARMSTRONG LUNESSED BY JAMES GRAHAM-BENJAMIN HUNTER THE ALLEGED INSTIGATOR.

PHILADELPHIA, Penn., March 20.-James Graham, age twenty-seven, was arrested early this morning, on the charge of murdering John W. Armstrong at Caroden, N. J., January 23 last, and has confessed the crime. He was an apprentice under Benjamin Hunter, now in prison on the charge, and says that Hunter agreed to pay him if he accomplished the deed. He had more careful readers of George Eliot than I have several interviews with Hunter, and the object of the ever been; to me they are new. The dates of what | murder, he says, was to get the money from the insuof late. His confession is believed by the Sheriff of

A BAND OF COUNTERFEITERS ARRESTED.

CHICAGO, March 20 .- All last night and up to an early hour this morning, Special Government Detective Tyrell was engaged in searching for and arrest

QUIET RESTORED AT DARTMOUTH. HANOVER, N. H. March 20 .- Quiet is again restored at Dartmouth. Of the large number discussed from the college, only two, Isaac G. Burnett, a innor from 8 an Francisco, and John Creeker, a Fresbunan in the Scientific Department from illinois, have been ex-pelled. The Sophomores to-day escorted their dis-missed class-mates to the cars, some going to the next

THE NATIONAL PARTY IN RHODE ISLAND. PROVIDENCE, R. I., March 20,-The State onvention of the National party was held bere to-day. Only six towns were represented. William Foster was nonmated for Governor, Jason P. Hazard for Lientenant Governor, Henry Appleton for Secretary of State, and Andrew B. Moore for General Treasurer.

COAL SHIPMENTS BY WATER. NEWBURG, March 20.-The first coal shipment of the season reached the Pennsylvania Company's

works, in this city, to-day. Two hundred car-loads arrived. The navigation of the Hudson being reopened, he shipping of coal by water will be commenced imme-SENATOR MORRISSEY TO RETURN HOME. JACKSONVILLE, Fla., March 20 .- The condition of Mr. Morrissey is so much improved that it is thought safe for him to start for his home in New-York. If nothing to prevent occurs he will leave on Friday by

APPOINTMENT OF ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS. BALTIMORE, Md., March 20 .- The Catholic Mirror has official information that the Rev. J. J. Keene, of Washington, has been appointed Bishop of Richmond, and Monsignor Chatard Bishop of Vincennes, Ind.

TELEGRAPHIC NOTES.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., March 20.—To-day the dead ody of an unknown man was found in a disused well on Smith-st.

Utica, N. Y., March 20,—The State Convention of Reform Clubs will be held in Utica on April 4 and 5. Each club is entitled to send three delegates.

BLOOMSBURG, Penn., March 20.—The Danville, Hazleten and Wilkesbarre Railreat, sold here, to-day, under foreclosure, was bought by the bondholders for \$400,000.

New London, Conn., March 20.—The Grand Jury 10-day found a true bill of manslaughter against John Goddard, who killed Michael Mackey, his brother-in-law, at North Stonington, December 20.

Stonington, December 20.

TRENTON, N. J., March 20.—The term of the imprisonment of Josephus Sooy, to the State Prison, being near its close, strong efforts are making to secure his pardon in order to save his citizenship.

ENGLAND ALONE OBSTINATE. AUSTRIA DEEMS HER POSITION UNSOUND-CONCES

SIONS OFFERED THE GREEK PROVINCES. Greater hostility toward England is manifested in Russia. It is considered certain, however, that the Congress will meet April 2. In Vienna it is held that England should take part in it before appealing to arms. If she does not, an alliance with Austria may be out of the question. Russian troops were to have left San Stefano, yesterday, for Odessa. It is re-ported that Hobart Pasha has offered the Thessalian insurgents home Government.

THE EUROPEAN SITUATION. RUSSIA EMBITTERED TOWARD ENGLAND-FAIR PROS-

PECIS OF A CONGRESS.

LONDON, Wednesday, March 20, 1878.

The semi-official Politische Correspondenz prints a
St. Petersburg letter, which declares that England's claim has produced so bad an impression in Russia that the meeting of the Congress is doubtful. Nevertheless, it is believed in Vienna and Berlin that the Congress will meet on the 2d of April.

The Daily Telegraph's Vienna correspondent tele It is urged in official circles here that England has no ground to make war, without first going to the Congress. If she does, she will have the disapprobation of Germany and Austria. If Encland compromises the Congress, Count Andrassy's policy will be thwarted, and the hope of an ultimate Anglo-Austrian understanding must be abandoned. The Berlin Cabinet holds the same view.

A Berlin telegram to The Times says: "The North and South German newspapers express great anxiety about Austria's future. Russia is buying large quantities of saltpetre and torpedoes." LONDON, Thursday, March 21, 1878.

The Press Association says it learns on excellent authority that within the last few hours the Government has received a hint that Russia will yield on the point now at issue. A Constantinople telegram says Savet Pasha has declined to go to the Congress. It is thought Vefyk or Musurus Pashas will go there.

THE PEACE CONDITIONS AS MODIFIED. LONDON, Thursday, March 21, 1878.

The Times's Vienna correspondent summarizes the offlial text of the treaty of peace. The treaty is sub-stantially the same as already telegraphed. The territory ceded to Montenegro is, however, twice as large as the Montenegrins could have claimed on the basis of conquest. This accession of territory is principally to

the Turks, to gain access to Bosnia and Herzegovina without entering Servia or Montenegro, must cross the Mohragora Mountains.

The frontier of Bulgaria extends further west than at

first stated, the new boundary being formed by the River Struma, approaching within a few miles of Salonica. Russia, however, has made the concession that in one year after the introduction of the new regime in Bulgaria, the Porte, Russia and the European Cabinets may agree to associate special delegates with the Russian Com-missioner who is charged with the reorganization of the province.

missioner who is charged with the reorganization of the province.

The treaty concludes: After the exchange of the ratifications a place and time will be agreed upon for providing this act with the solemn forms usual with treaties of peace; but the contracting parties are formally bound from the moment of ratification.

The correspondent remarks that thus, although the cooperation of the Powers is not distinctly mentioned as necessary to make the peace defluitive, still the admission is indirectly made that something more is required.

THE ALLEGED RUSSIAN ATROCITY.

LONDON, Wednesday, March 20, 1878. The story of the hanging of the four Austrian Polish surgeons of the Society of the Red Crescent, at Sophia, by General Ghourko, has been persistently the Russian and Austrian Governments. A correspondent of the Vienna Politische Correspondents. A correspondent of the Vienna Politische Correspondent has made an investigation of the story, and finds that it was utterly one of the surgeons alleged to have been executed, who said that General Ghourko gave all the surgeons at sophia full beerty of action. Dr. Gebhart also informed the correspondent of the present whereabouts of the other surgeons named as executed.

TROOPS GOING HOME-YELLOW FEVER AT TIPLIS, LONDON, Wednesday, March 20, 1878.

A Pera dispatch to The Times, dated Tuesday, says: "General Ghourko's staff and many other officers will start for Odessa to day. General Ghourko

Ouard is detayed somewhat, in consequence of the Porte's refusal to permit the embarkation of the Russians at Buyukdere."

Advices from Tillis state that the typhus is raging among the Russian troops in Asia. Generals Melikoff, Solowieff and Schelkownikoff are reported to have deed. It is believed that more men have been lost by sickness since the cessation of arms than on the battlefield during the war.

HOBART PASHA AND THE HELLENES. LONDON, Wednesday, March 20, 1878.

The insurgents in Thessaly have refused to

hold a pariey with Hobert Pasha unless he recognizes the Provisional Government. He had addressed his let-ter to "the chiefs of the malcontent party." LONDON, Thursday, March 21, 1878-1 A Reuter dispatch from Athens reports that

AFFAIRS AROUND STAMBOUL. CONSTANTINOPLE, Wednesday, March 20, 1878. The Russian vessels have left Buyakdere,

and anchored off San Stefano. Sixteen batteries of Turkish artillery have occupied Litros-Burghas and Sweetwaters, near Constantinople.

LITIGATION BETWEEN CHURCHES. FINAL DECISION IN PROCEEDINGS THAT HAVE LASTED FOURTEEN YEARS. Fourteen years' litigation between the Madi-

on Avenue Baptist Church and the Baptist Church in Oliverst, was finally decided in the Court of Appeals on Tuesday. In 1862 these churches united, the Madison Avenue Church trustees conveying their property at Thirty-first-st, to the Oliver Street Church, the latter paying the debts of the former. Discussions afterward arose, and suit was begun by the trustees of the Madison Avenue Church to recover the property, upon the ground that the deed was legally unauthorized and vord. The judgment of the Supreme Court was in favor of the plantiffs, in regard to the title of the property. In the meantime the Oliver Street Church complied with the terms of the union, paying the debts of the other congregation, and public service has been held in the building during the entire litigation, in which the Madison Avenue congregation to some extent participated. In the Supreme Court, it was declared that tals money should be returned with interest, but the charge allowed for occupation not only absolved the amonn, but made an indebtedness of about \$19,000.

The decision of the Court of Appeals affirms the judgment of the Supreme Court upon the question of title, and reverses it as to the accounting. The proceedings are remitted for farther accounting, without costs to either party before the Court of Appeals. This returns the church property to the plantin, while the accounting provided for will return to the Oliver Street Church the money paid out in meeting the indebtedness on the property—about \$80,000—with interest, and withou charge for the occupation during the long litigation. peals on Tuesday. .In 1862 these churches united,

THE FIRE RECORD.

LARGE FIRE AT CLEVELAND-LOSS \$165,000. CLEVELAND, Ohio, March 20 .- At midnight or and Merwin-sts., occupied by the Cieveland Non-Explosive Lamp Company. The building and its contents were entirely consamed. The building was valued at \$25,000; itsured, but the amount is not known. The \$25,000; itsured, but the amount is not known. The business manager of the lamp company places the loss of the company at about \$140,000. The insurance on stock and machinery is as follows; Atlantic, of New-York, \$5,000; Boston Underwriters', \$7,500; Merden, Connecticut, \$2,500; Royal, England, \$10,000; Fancuil, Boston, \$2,500, and \$32,000 in Western companies, \$22,000 of which is in the Ohio Fire Association of Cincinnati.

AT NEW-BRIGHTON, STATEN ISLAND.

Fire was discovered, early yesterday morning, in the kitchen of the two-story frame house at Silver Lake, New-Brighton, owned and occupied by Ernst Boenme as a dwelling and liquor satoon. The house with the furniture was destroyed. The property was valued at \$3,000; insured for \$2,000.

IN THIS CITY. A fire occurred soon after 8 o'clock yesterday morning in Parker's Hotel, on Sixth-ave., near Thirty-fourth-st. The damage to the building and its contents is estimated at \$4,000; fully covered by insur-